

NEWS RELEASE

NELSON P. COHEN UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF ALASKA

Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse • 222 W. 7th Avenue • Room 253 • Anchorage, AK 99513-7567 • (907) 271-5071

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday, August 29, 2007

#07-125

JAIL TIME AND RESTITUTION ORDERED FOR INTERFERING WITH FLIGHT CREW

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced today, August 29, 2007, that Rafael Alberto Villaroya Holazo, a resident of Oklahoma City, OK, was given a 69 day time-served sentence in federal court in Anchorage for his conviction of interference with a flight crew. He was also ordered to pay \$35,935 in restitution to Northwest Airlines, with an immediate payment of \$20,000 to be made from the cash in Holazo's possession at the time of his arrest.

United States District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess imposed the sentence on Holazo, age 49, of 1505 SW 44th St, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

According to information presented to the court by Assistant United States Attorney Retta Randall, on May 8, 2007, Northwest Airlines Flight 71 was en route to Nagoya, Japan from Detroit, Michigan, when it was diverted to Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, because Holazo a passenger on the plane, became disruptive and assaulted a flight crew member.

Prior to imposing sentence, Judge Burgess told Holazo that his abuse of alcohol had to be addressed and ordered an assessment for alcohol abuse. Among other restrictions, Holazo was ordered not to fly on any commercial airline without the consent of the United States Probation Office.

Mr. Cohen commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Holazo.

###